IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (*Currently amended*) Subcutaneous implants comprising:

- a core (i) comprising at least one active principle dispersed in a polymeric matrix essentially consisting of PLGA obtained by extrusion, wherein said active principle is at most 55% mass/mass of the total weight of the core,

- a coating (ii) in film form comprising as the main component PLGA**, said PLGA having a molecular weight between 50,000 and 150,000 and a molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid monomers between 50:50 and 95:5,**

- said implants having an extended overall release of the active principle with a linear profile.

23. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 22, wherein the active principle contained in the core (i) is selected from the group consisting of a peptide, an active principle able to increase bone density selected from pharmaceutically acceptable bisphosphonic acids and their salts, vitamin D or analogues thereof and sex hormones, an analgesic-narcotic, a steroid hormone for hormonal treatments during menopause or for contraception.

24. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 23, wherein the core (i) contains a peptide the particles of said active principle present heterogeneous dimensions which vary from 1 micron to 63 microns.

25. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 22, wherein the PLGA used in the core (i) presents a molecular weight between 50,000 and 150,000 and a molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid monomers between 50:50 and 95:5.

26. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating (ii) contains PLGA in amounts ranging from 75 to 99,999% and the remaining to 100% consisting essentially of excipients and/or of the same active ingredient used in the core (i).

27. (*Cancelled*)

28. (*Previously presented*) The subcutaneous implants according to claim 26, wherein the coating (ii) consists of a mixture of 80% PLGA and the remaining to 100% of at least one hydrophilic excipient.

29. (*Previously presented*) The subcutaneous implants according to claim 28, wherein said hydrophilic excipient is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl pyrrolidone, D-mannitol and mixtures thereof.

30. (*Withdrawn*) The subcutaneous implants according to claim 26, wherein the coating (ii) consists of a mixture of 75% PLGA and the remaining to 100% of the same active ingredient contained in the core (i).

31. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 22, wherein said coating in film form (ii) consists of PLGA with a molecular weight between 50,000 and 150,000 and a molar ratio of lactic acid to glycolic acid monomers between 50:50 and 95:5.

32. (*Currently amended*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 31, wherein said PLGA presents an average molecular weight between 100,000 and 150,000 and said molar ratio is ~~comprised~~ between 50/50 and 75/25.

33. (*Previously presented*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating (ii) presents a thickness between 5 and 250 μm.

34. (*Currently amended*) Subcutaneous implant as claimed in claim 33, wherein said thickness is ~~comprised~~ between 10 and 100 μm.

35. (Withdrawn) Process for preparing the subcutaneous implants as claimed in claim 22, comprising the following stages:

a) preparing the core (i) containing the active principle by extrusion;

b) passing the core (i) into a solution of PLGA in a suitable solvent selected from the group consisting of apolar and aprotic polar solvents such that said cores remain in contact with said solution for a period between 1 and 5 seconds; and

c) drying said cores originating from stage (b).

36. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the polar solvent is a chlorinated solvent.

37. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 36, wherein said solvent is methylene chloride.

38. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein said aprotic polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, ethyl acetate, and tetrahydrofuran.

39. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein the PLGA concentration in the solution used in stage (a) is comprised between 70 and 300 g/l.

40. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 39, wherein said concentration is comprised between 100 and 200 g/l.

41. (Withdrawn) Process as claimed in claim 35, wherein said contact time is 1 second.

42. (Withdrawn) Process for preparing the subcutaneous implant according to claim 22 comprising the following stages:

a') mixing the active principle with PLGA,

b') possibly granulating the mixture originating from (a') in the minimum

solvent quantity, and drying the granules obtained,

c') co-extruding the mixture originating from (a') or from (b') together with the PLGA used for preparing the coating in film form (ii).